

## IN THE CLAIMS:

*This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:*

I claim:

1. (Currently Amended) A composition comprising:
  - ~~(a) — (i) one or more isolated *Streptococcus oralis* strains; (ii) or one or more isolated strains of *Streptococcus uberis*; (iii) or one or more isolated *Streptococcus oralis* strains and one or more isolated strains of *Streptococcus uberis*; and~~
  - ~~(b) — one or more isolated *mutans streptococcus* strains, wherein the *mutans streptococcus* strains are lactate dehydrogenase deficient.~~
2. (Original) The composition of claim 1, further comprising a carrier.
3. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 24, wherein the one or more isolated *mutans streptococcus* strains are selected from the group consisting of *S. rattus*, *S. rattus* strain JH145, *S. cricetus*, *S. mutans*, *S. sobrinus*, *S. downei*, *S. macacae*, and *S. ferus*; wherein the one or more isolated *S. oralis* strains are selected from the group consisting of *S. oralis* strain KJ3sm and *S. oralis* strain KJ3; and wherein the one or more isolated *S. uberis* strains are selected from the group consisting of *S. uberis* strain KJ2sm and *S. uberis* strain KJ2.
4. (Canceled)
5. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 24, wherein the one or more isolated *mutans streptococcus* strain is a are naturally-occurring ~~mutant~~ mutants that is are lactate dehydrogenase-deficient or are genetically modified strains that are lactate dehydrogenase-deficient.
6. (Canceled)
7. (Canceled)
8. (Canceled)
9. (Currently Amended) A food composition comprising:
  - ~~(a) — (i) one or more isolated *Streptococcus oralis* strains; (ii) or one or more isolated strains of *Streptococcus uberis*; (iii) or one or more isolated *Streptococcus oralis* strains and one or more isolated strains of *Streptococcus uberis*; and~~

- ~~(b) — one or more isolated *mutans streptococcus* strains, wherein the *mutans streptococcus* strains are lactate dehydrogenase-deficient.~~
10. (Currently Amended) The food composition of claim ~~[[9]]~~ 25, wherein the one or more isolated *mutans streptococcus* strains are selected from the group consisting of *S. rattus*, *S. cricetus*, *S. mutans*, *S. sobrinus*, *S. downei*, *S. macacae*, and *S. ferus*.
11. (Currently Amended) The food composition of claim ~~[[9]]~~ 25, wherein the one or more isolated *mutans streptococcus* strain ~~is a~~ are naturally-occurring ~~mutant~~ mutants that ~~is~~ are lactate dehydrogenase-deficient or are genetically modified strains that are lactate dehydrogenase-deficient.
12. (Canceled)
13. (Currently Amended) A dentifrice, oral rinse, chewing gum, lozenge, or topical agent composition comprising:
- ~~(a) — (i) one or more isolated *Streptococcus oralis* strains; (ii) or one or more isolated strains of *Streptococcus uberis*; (iii) or one or more isolated *Streptococcus oralis* strains and one or more isolated strains of *Streptococcus uberis*; and~~
- ~~(b) — one or more isolated *mutans streptococcus* strains, wherein the *mutans streptococcus* strains are lactate dehydrogenase-deficient.~~
14. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim ~~13~~ 26, wherein the one or more isolated *mutans streptococcus* strains are selected from the group consisting of *S. rattus*, *S. cricetus*, *S. mutans*, *S. sobrinus*, *S. downei*, *S. macacae*, and *S. ferus*.
15. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim ~~13~~ 26, wherein the one or more isolated *mutans streptococcus* strain ~~is a~~ strains are naturally-occurring ~~mutant~~ mutants that ~~is~~ are lactate dehydrogenase-deficient or are genetically modified strains that are lactate dehydrogenase-deficient.
16. (Canceled)
17. (Original) A method for maintaining oral health of a subject comprising administering the composition of claim 1 to an oral cavity of a subject.
18. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein the subject is a mammal.
19. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein the composition is administered to the subject about once a day, about once a week, or about once a month.
20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 17, wherein maintaining oral ~~healthy~~ health comprises the treatment, prevention or both treatment and prevention of periodontitis, dental caries, *Candida* or fungal overgrowth, halitosis, xerostomia-

induced dental caries or periodontal disease, oral bacterial infections, oral bacterial disease, oral wounds or a combination thereof.

21. (Currently Amended) A method of non-persistently colonizing an oral cavity of a subject with therapeutically-effective bacteria comprising administering to the oral cavity of the subject a combination comprising:

- ~~(a) (i) one or more isolated *Streptococcus oralis* strains; (ii) or one or more isolated strains of *Streptococcus uberis*; (iii) or one or more isolated *Streptococcus oralis* strains and one or more isolated strains of *Streptococcus uberis*; and~~
- ~~(b) one or more isolated *mutans streptococcus* strains, wherein the *mutans streptococcus* strains are lactate dehydrogenase-deficient.~~

22. (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein the combination is administered to the subject about once a day, about once a week, or about once a month.

23. (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein the subject is a mammal.

24. (New) The composition of claim 1, further comprising one or more isolated *mutans streptococcus* strains, wherein the *mutans streptococcus* strains are lactate dehydrogenase-deficient.

25. (New) The food composition of claim 9, further comprising one or more isolated *mutans streptococcus* strains, wherein the *mutans streptococcus* strains are lactate dehydrogenase-deficient.

26. (New) The dentifrice, oral rinse, chewing gum, lozenge, or topical agent composition of claim 13, further comprising one or more isolated *mutans streptococcus* strains, wherein the *mutans streptococcus* strains are lactate dehydrogenase-deficient.

27. (New) The method of claim 24, further comprising the administration of one or more isolated *mutans streptococcus* strains, wherein the *mutans streptococcus* strains are lactate dehydrogenase-deficient.

28. (New) A method for maintaining oral health of a subject comprising administering the composition of claim 24 to an oral cavity of a subject.

29. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein maintaining oral health comprises the treatment, prevention or both treatment and prevention of periodontitis, dental caries, *Candida* or fungal overgrowth, halitosis, xerostomia-induced dental caries or periodontal disease, oral bacterial infections, oral bacterial disease, oral wounds or a combination thereof.